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## China - Peoples Republic of

**Post:** Beijing

### China Temporarily Eliminates Import Tariffs for Oil Meals

**Report Categories:**

Trade Policy Monitoring

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**Report Highlights:**

On December 22, 2018, the State Council Tariff Committee (SCTC) announced its annual tariff adjustment plan that sets temporary import and export tariff rates for selected commodities for 2019. Notably, China will temporarily eliminate import tariffs for plant-based oil meals beginning on January 1, 2019, a move believed to encourage oil meal imports as a substitute to soybean meal. This report includes an unofficial translation of the SCTC announcement and a list of agricultural commodities subject to temporary import tariff rates.

**General Information:**

At the end of each year, the SCTC sets temporary import and export tariff rates for selected commodities for the following year and announces import tariffs for agricultural commodities under the tariff rate quotas (TRQ) regime (TRQ volumes are announced separately by the National Development and Reform Commission). In most cases, the temporary tariff rates will stay in place until the government decides to reinstate the most favored nation (MFN) rates. This report contains an unofficial translation of the SCTC announcement, including the 2019 temporary import tariff rates for certain agricultural commodities (Table 1). While the temporary tariffs for most agricultural commodities remain unchanged from 2018, import tariffs for some plant-based oil meals will be eliminated as of January 1, 2019 (Serial No. 67-76). China permanently lowered MFN import tariffs for many commodities, including a number of commodities covered by this announcement, in July and September of 2018 (see GAIN reports [CH18030](#) and [CH18070](#)).

**Notable Tariff Reductions in 2019:**

**Plant-based oil meals:** The 2019 tariff adjustment has eliminated import tariffs for peanut meal (HS 23050000), cotton seed meal (HS 23061000), linseed meal (23062000), sunflower seed meal (HS 23063000), low erucic rapeseed meal (HS 23064100), other rapeseed meal (HS 23064900), coconut or copra meal (HS 23065000), palm nut or kernel meal (HS 23066000), other oil-meals (HS 23069000), and plant products used in animal feed (HS 23080000). This move is believed to encourage oil meal imports as a substitute to soybean meal. China's soybean imports fell sharply in 2018 due to the trade dispute with the United States.

Please visit the following website for SCTC's official announcement and a complete list of tariff adjustments:

[http://gss.mof.gov.cn/zhengwuxinxi/zhengcefabu/201812/t20181221\\_3101662.html](http://gss.mof.gov.cn/zhengwuxinxi/zhengcefabu/201812/t20181221_3101662.html)

## **BEGIN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION**

Notification of the State Council Tariff Committee on Tariff Adjustment Plan in 2019

SCTC No.65 (2018)

December 22, 2018

The General Administration of Customs,

In an effort to facilitate high quality economic development and stable growth of import and export trade, the import and export tariffs for some commodities will be adjusted as of January 1, 2019 based on relevant provisions of the “Import and Export Tariff Regulation of the People’s Republic of China”. The Adjustment Plan for Temporary Import and Export Tariff Rates in 2019 is printed and delivered to your Administration. Refer to the appendix for details.

Appendix: The Adjustment Plan for Temporary Import and Export Tariff Rates in 2019

The State Council Tariff Committee

Appendix:

The Adjustment Plan for Temporary Import and Export Tariff Rates in 2019

I- Adjustments on import tariff rates

### **1. Most Favored Nation Tariff**

1. Temporary import tariff rates will be applied to a total of 706 commodities as of January 1, 2019. The temporary import tariffs on 14 IT products will end on July 1, 2019. Meanwhile, the scope of application for temporary import tariff rate on one category of commodities will be reduced (see Annex 1).
2. The MFN tariff rates on IT products listed in the annex of Amendment to the Tariff Schedule of the People’s Republic of China to the World Trade Organization will be reduced for the fourth time on July 1, 2019 (see Annex 2).

### **2. Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ)**

TRQ management will continue to apply to eight categories of commodities including wheat and the tariff rates will remain unchanged. A temporary one-percent TRQ rate will apply to three fertilizers including urea, compound fertilizer, and diammonium phosphate. A sliding tax will continue to be levied on certain amount of out-quota import cotton and the rate will be adjusted accordingly (see Annex 3).

### **3. Conventional tariff rates**

1. Based on the preferential trade or tariff agreements signed between China and certain countries or regions, the conventional tariff rates with Zealand, Peru, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Iceland, South Korea, Australia, Georgia, and Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement countries will be further reduced as of January 1, 2019, in addition to continued implementation of conventional tariff reduction plan as previously approved by the State Council. In accordance with the trade agreement under Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (hereinafter referred as “Agreement”) between mainland China and Hong Kong and Macau, zero tariffs will be applied to all products originating from Hong Kong and Macau upon enforcement of the Agreement (see Annex 5), except for products on which mainland has made special commitments in relevant international agreements.
2. When MFN tariff rates are lower or equal to the conventional tariff rates, they shall be implemented in accordance with relevant agreements.

#### 4. Special preferential tariff rate

In accordance with the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement, the special preferential tariff rates under the agreement will be further reduced (see Annex 5).

#### II - Export tariff rate

Export tariffs or temporary export tariffs will continue to be applied to 108 commodities including raw iron (see Annex 4).

The above plan will be implemented on January 1, 2019 unless otherwise specified.

#### Annex:

1. Table of Temporary Tariff Rates on Import Commodities
2. Table of MFN Tariff Rates for Certain IT Products
3. Table of Tariff Rates for TRQ Commodities
4. Table of Tariff Rates for Export Commodities
5. Table of Further Reduced Conventional Tariff Rates on Import Commodities (to be released separately)

**END UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION**

**Table 1: Temporary Tariff Rates on Import Commodities  
(limited to agricultural commodities)**

Serial No.	EX <sup>1</sup>	HS Code	Commodity	MFN rate (%)	2019 temporary rate (%)
1		01061211	Whales, dolphins and porpoises; manatees and dugongs, pure-bred breeding	10	0
2		03031300	Frozen Atlantic salmon and Danube salmon	7	5
3		03033110	Frozen Greenland halibut	7	5
4		03033200	Frozen plaice	7	2
5		03034100	Frozen albacore or longfin tunas	7	6
6		03034200	Frozen yellowfin tunas	7	6
7		03034400	Frozen bigeye tunas	7	6
8		03034510	Frozen Atlantic Bluefin tunas	7	6
9		03034520	Frozen Pacific Bluefin tunas	7	6
10		03034600	Frozen southern Bluefin tunas	7	6
11		03035100	Frozen herrings	7	2
12	ex	03035900	Frozen capelin, excluding edible remnants	7	5
13		03036300	Frozen cod	7	2
14		03036700	Frozen Alaska Pollack	7	5
15		03038910	Frozen scabber fish	7	5
16		03061490	Other frozen crabs	7	5
17		03061612	Frozen pandaius borealis	5	2
18		03061719	Other frozen shrimp	5	2
19		03063190	Live, fresh or chilled rock lobster and other sea crawfish	7	5
20		03078190	Other live, fresh, or cold abalone	10	7
21		04041000	Whey and modified whey	6	2
22		04062000	Grated or powdered cheese, of all kinds	12	8
23		04063000	Processed cheese, not grated or powdered	12	8
24		04064000	Blue-veined cheese and other cheese containing veins produced by <i>Penicillium roqueforti</i>	15	8
25		04069000	Other cheese	12	8
26		05119111	Fertilized fish eggs	12	0
27		08011100	Desiccated coconut	12	7
28		08012100	In-shell Brazil nuts, fresh or dried	10	7
29		08012200	Shell Brazil nuts, fresh or dried	10	7
30		08013100	In shell cashews, fresh or dried	20	7
31		08013200	Shell cashews, fresh or dried	10	7
32		08021100	In shell almonds, fresh or dried	24	10

33		08024190	Other in-shell chestnuts, fresh or dried	25	20
34		08024290	Other shelled chestnuts, fresh or dried	25	20
35		08025100	In-shell Pistachios, fresh or dried	10	5
36		08025200	Shelled pistachios, fresh or dried	10	5
37		08026190	In-shell macadamia nuts, not for seeds	24	12
38		08026200	Shelled macadamia nuts	24	12
39		08029020	Gingko nuts, fresh or dried	25	20
40	ex	08029090	Pecan (whether or not shelled or peeled)	24	7
41		08044000	Avocados, fresh or dried	25	7
42	ex	08104000	Fresh cranberries	30	15
43	ex	08134090	Dried cranberries	25	15
44		12119036	Licorice roots	6	0
45	ex	12119039	Bark, branch or leaf of Chinese yew, fresh or dried	6	0
46		12122190	Other seaweeds and algae fit for human consumption	15	2
47		12122910	Sargass	15	2
48		12122990	Other seaweeds and algae unsuitable for human consumption	15	2
49	ex	12149000	Other Lucerne (alfalfa), excluding meal and pellets	9	7
50	ex	12149000	Mixed natural forage grass of gramineae and legume families, other than Lucerne (alfalfa)	9	4
51		13021200	Saps and extracts of licorice	6	0
52	ex	14049090	Coco coir (sripe/piece)	15	4
53		15021000	Bovine animal tallow	8	2
54		15029000	Other bovine animal tallow	8	4
55	ex	15042000	Fish oil capsules	12	6
56	ex	15119020	Palm stearin (melting point 50°C-56°C)	8	2
57		15200000	Glycerol, crude; glycerol waters and glycerol lyes	20	6
58		18010000	Whole or broken cocoa beans, raw or roasted	8	2
59		19011010	Formula milk powder prepared for infant use, put up for retail sale	15	5
60		19011090	Other food prepared for infant use, put up for retail sale	15	2
61		19019000	Other food not elsewhere specified or included	10	5
62		19021900	Other uncooked pasta, not stuffed or otherwise prepared	10	8
63	ex	21069090	Special infant milk powder with milk protein partial (or deep) hydrolysate	12	0

			formula, amino acid formula, or lactose-free formula		
64		22051000	Vermouth and other wine in small containers	65	14
65		22082000	Spirits obtained by distilling grape wine or grape marc	10	5
66		22083000	Whiskies	10	5
67		<b>23050000</b>	<b>Oil-cake and other solid residues resulting from the extraction of peanut oil</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>
68		<b>23061000</b>	<b>Oil-cake and other solid residues resulting from extraction of cotton seeds</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>
69		<b>23062000</b>	<b>Oil-cake and other solid residues resulting from extraction of linseeds</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>
70		<b>23063000</b>	<b>Oil-cake and other solid residues resulting from extraction of sunflower seeds</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>
71		<b>23064100</b>	<b>Oil-cake and other solid residues resulting from extraction of low erucic acid rapeseeds</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>
72		<b>23064900</b>	<b>Oil-cake and other solid residues resulting from extraction of other rapeseeds</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>
73		<b>23065000</b>	<b>Oil-cake and other solid residues resulting from extraction of coconut or copra</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>
74		<b>23066000</b>	<b>Oil-cake and other solid residues resulting of extraction of palm nuts or kernels</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>
75		<b>23069000</b>	<b>Other residues resulting from extraction of vegetable oils or fats, other than those of heading No. 2304 or 2305</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>
76		<b>23080000</b>	<b>Other plant products used in animal feeding</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>
77		23091010	Dog or cat food in airtight containers for retail sale	15	4
78		23091090	Other dog or cat food in retail packages	15	4
79		23099090	Other preparations of a kind used in animal feeding	6.5	4
80	ex	24039100	Reconstituted tobacco	57	40
81		29054500	Glycerol	8	3
82	ex	35030010	Gelatin	12	5
83		35051000	Dextrins and other modified starches	12	6

84		38231200	Oleic acid	16	8
85	ex	38231900	Plant acid oil	16	5
86		41012020	Raw hides and skins of equine animals	5	2
87		41041111	Wet-blue bovine hides and skins, full grains, unsplit or grain splits	6	3
88		41041911	Other wet-blue bovine hides and skins	6	3
89		41044100	Bovine hides and skins in dry state (crust), full grains, unsplit or grain splits	5	3
90		41051010	Wet-blue skins of sheep or lambs	14	10
91	ex	41062100	Wet-blue skins of goats	14	10
92		41063110	Wet-blue skins of swine	14	10
93		43011000	Whole mink fur, with or without head, tail or paws	15	10
94		43016000	Whole fox fur, with or without head, tail or paws	20	10
95		43018090	Other furskins, whole	20	15
96		44089012	Veneer sheets of temperate non-coniferous wood	3	1
97	ex	44089019	Veneer sheets for furniture	3	1
98	ex	44089029	Sheets for plywood of wood, peeled	3	1
99		52101100	Unbleached cotton plain weave, mixed with manmade fibers	8	6
100		52101990	Other unbleached cotton weave, mixed with manmade fibers	8	6
101		52111100	Unbleached cotton weave, mixed with manmade fibers	8	6
102		52111200	Unbleached cotton weave of 3-thread or 4-thread twill, mixed with manmade fibers	8	6
103		52122100	Other unbleached cotton cloth, mixed	8	6
104		53012100	Flax, broken or scutched	6	1
105		53013000	Flax tow and waste	6	1
106	ex	56013000	Textile fibers spun by two or more organic polymer, cross-section is structure of skin-core or parallel or island, of a length not exceeding 5mm	8	5

Notes: ex<sup>1</sup> indicates that commodities applicable to temporary tariffs should be within the HS code and should be determined by the Mandarin Chinese commodity description.



